

# LGBTTQ Home Care Access Project

*A 3 year research initiative: 2011-2014*



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### Meet the Research Team (RT) & Advisory Committees (ACs)

As we prepare to launch Phase 1 of our research, ***web-based surveys with LGBTTQ home care users starting in the fall***, we're working on modifying our survey so that its capable of capturing the complexities of LGBTTQs experiences of home care. A big thanks to our ACs and RT for their great feedback on our survey! In this issue we introduce the members of the RT and ACs, who are helping us shape our work so that it is the best it can be.

Check out our new website!

We will be updating our website regularly with new research opportunities related to our project, so check it out:

<http://www.yorku.ca/lgtbhome>

## About this project

The LGBTTQ Home Care Access Project is an Ontario-based research collaboration between Andrea Daley and Judy MacDonnell from York University in Toronto, with community partners Rainbow Health Ontario and Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre. The project is funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR).

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, two-spirit, and queer (LGBTTQ) communities experience unique barriers to receiving good quality health care services. However, we know less about how these communities experience home care services specifically, as well as service providers' experiences working with LGBTTQ clients. This research hopes to increase what we know about LGBTTQ peoples' access to home care services, with the long-term goal of improving home care for these communities.

## Our Research Team



Heading the research team are **Andrea Daley (top; Social Work)** and **Judy MacDonnell (bottom; Nursing)** from **York University**. Both have spent years doing research focused on healthcare access and equity for LGBTs.

### Loralee Gillis, Rainbow Health Ontario

Loralee is the Coordinator of Research and Policy at Rainbow Health Ontario. She works to increase capacity for LGBT health research in ON, and to ensure that existing research is used by care providers and policy makers to promote LGBT health and wellness.

### Shari Brotman, McGill University

Shari is a Social Work professor at McGill University. She has extensive experience doing research focused on access and equity in the design and delivery of health and social services to cultural communities in Canada, including LGBTs.

### Alisa Grigorovich, York University

Alisa is a PhD student in Women's Studies at York University. Her PhD research explores older gay, lesbian, and bisexual women's experiences of accessing and receiving home care. Alisa is the research assistant on this project.

### Jane Aronson, McMaster University

Jane is a Social Work professor at McMaster University. She has extensive experience doing research on home care and long-term care use and provision in ON.

### Tim Pauley, Toronto Central

Tim is the Manager, Research and Evaluation at the Toronto Central Community Care Access Centre.

### Theresa Knott, California State University Melissa St. Pierre, York University

Theresa is a Sociology and Social Work professor at California State University. She is the team's numbers expert and has worked with large, secondary datasets.

Melissa is the research coordinator on this project. She is completing her PhD at the University of Windsor, looking at lesbians' experiences with healthcare professionals.

## On April 2, 2012, we held a joint meeting with the Advisory Committee and Research Team

On April 2, 2012, we held a joint meeting with the Advisory Committee (AC) and Research Team (RT) to discuss our Service User Survey, the new questionnaire we're developing and will be using to gather information on LGBTTQs' access to and experiences of home care.

Our AC and RT members came from all across ON to join us for an in-person meeting at the Sherbourne Health Centre in downtown Toronto. People travelled from the GTA, Kitchener, London, Ottawa, and all the way from Thunder Bay.

We started early in the morning with introductions, got to know each other, and didn't take too long to get right down to business. We all participated in a give and take process of feedback sharing and exchanging. Thanks to the valuable advice received at our meeting, we've got a better draft of the Service User Survey to work with!

**Thanks to our Advisory Committee and Research Team for all of their hard work and dedication to the project!**

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### How the AC came to be

We received several qualified applications to join our AC; out of these, 10 people were selected

**Interested in joining our AC? If you're a racialized community member/person of colour, we want to hear from you!**  
**Contact Melissa at [lgbthome@yorku.ca](mailto:lgbthome@yorku.ca) for more info!**



## Our Advisory Committee

### Alison Rogers, Kitchener

Alison is a current recipient of home care services. She was the 2011 Women's Representative on the LGBTQ caucus of the ON NDP. In the past, Alison has provided home care services, particularly palliative HIV care.

### Courtney Bean, GTA

Courtney is the Director of Rehab Services at VHA Home Healthcare, which provides home care services in 8 LIHNS across ON.

### Christine Williams, London

Christine co-facilitates a support group for survivors of homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in London. Chris has a varied background, including as a psychiatric nurse; social worker; project manager; and director at a retirement community home.

### Joni Serio, GTA

Joni is the Manager of Events and Projects for the Ontario Community Support Association (OCSA). She has volunteered with several LGBT organizations (e.g., EGALE, Pride). Joni is currently serving as Board President for the Iranian Railroad for Queer Refugees.

### Rachel Mishenene, Thunder Bay

Rachel is a member of the Eabametoong First Nation community in Thunder Bay. She is actively involved in addressing Aboriginal education and social justice and equity issues. Rachel is also the Chair of Thunder Pride.

### Barry Deeprise, Ottawa

Barry currently works with the Senior Pride Network in Ottawa. Barry has been active in gay politics since 1979. He is co-chair of the Gay Men's Wellness Initiative in Ottawa.

### Herbert Harms, GTA

Herbert is an ordained clergy of the Lutheran Church. He is the Coordinator of Spiritual and Religious Care at Fudger House.

### Corena Ryan, GTA

Corena is the long term care coordinator at 2-Spirits. Corena coordinates care related to HIV and other chronic illnesses as well as palliative care for Aboriginal 2-Spirited People.

### Fran Odette, GTA

Fran is the Program Manager at Springtide Resources. She is a disability activist. Fran is faculty at George Brown College in the Assaulted Women and Children Counselor Advocate Program and in the Disability Studies Program at Ryerson University.

### Susan Gapka, GTA

Susan advises on the At Home/Chez Soi project of the Mental Health Commission of Canada. She is a community and political activist. She has degrees from both George Brown College and York University.

## Our OLGBT Advisory Committee

We recognize that a significant proportion of home care service users are members of our senior LGBTTQ communities. So, we have struck an independent advisory committee to focus on the issues relevant to aging LGBTTQ communities. Thank you to the Senior Pride Network of Toronto and all of the OLGBT Advisory Committee members for your expert advice!

### Shoshana Pellman

Shoshana is a trans activist. She has spoken at many forums and radio shows. She currently volunteers at Baycrest.

### Ranjith Prasanna

Ranjith brings to the center of our discussions the particular challenges faced by LGBT newcomers.

### Herbert Harms

Herbert acts as the bridge between the larger AC and the OLGBT AC; his bio can be found above.

### Diane Charter

Diana has extensive experience in healthcare communications, both in institutional and community care sectors.

### Sarah Singh

Sarah is the Director of Community Services at SPRINT. She and her team are dedicated to developing more inclusive home care services for LGBTs.

### Barry Birnberg

An interior designer, among other things, Barry has been involved in designing health care facilities in both the USA and Canada.

### Jackie Grandy

Jackie has worked in outreach, health promotions, and crisis response. She is completing a Master's in Social Work at the University of Windsor.

### Gerda Kaegi

Gerda is retired faculty at Ryerson University, Department of Politics and Public Administration. She is a member of the Canadian Pensioners Concerned (CPC), a senior's organization based in North America.

### Dick Moore

Dick was the Coordinator of the Older LGBT Program at The 519. He is currently a free lance trainer and consultant on LGBT access with home care agencies and long term care homes.

## What are we up to now?

Right now we're busy revising the Service User Survey, and making plans to pilot test it with LGBTTTQ home care service users. We're also starting to think about our Service Provider Survey – the questionnaire we'll be using to capture the experiences of home care service providers in relation to providing care to LGBTTTQs.

Stay tuned for our next issue. At that point, we're hoping to be ready to start recruiting participants for our web-based Service User Survey! We're offering a \$20 incentive for participation. We'll also be doing interviews with folks who are interested in speaking further about their home care experiences. Contact us for more info!

**WANT TO RECEIVE EMAIL UPDATES ABOUT THE  
LGBTTTQ HOME CARE ACCESS PROJECT?  
Email or call us to find out how!**

Visit us online: <http://www.yorku.ca/lgbthome>

For more information, contact us:

**Melissa** at: [lgbthome@yorku.ca](mailto:lgbthome@yorku.ca)

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